Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for sharing and manipulating supply chain planning data, comprising the steps of:

creating a central database for storing and sharing planning data used to coordinate, schedule and plan supply chain activities between and among a plurality of users of the supply chain, each user having an ability to read planning data from or write planning data to the central database according to an authorization level assigned by the user writing the planning data to the central database, each user having a different requirement for the planning data, the central database being organized into planning items and planning components, each planning item being associated with a set of time dependent planning components, the planning items including products, locations, and user-defined attributes, the planning components including demand forecast, supply forecast, promotional forecast, and purchasing order information, each planning component having a start date, duration, quantity, and version identifier assigned by the user;

creating a derived planning component through an equation which uses other selected planning components stored in the central database, the derived planning component being made available to the users of the supply chain according to the authorization level assigned by the user creating the derived planning component;

providing an attribute module made selectively available to ~~a~~ the plurality of users in the supply chain, the attribute module having access to the central database for assigning user-

defined attributes to the planning data to facilitate access to and manipulation of the planning data according to the different requirements for each user;

~~creating derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database;~~

providing a hierarchy module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the hierarchy module having access to the central database for creating a plurality of hierarchies ~~hierarchy based on the user-defined attributes~~ for organizing and viewing the planning data for the plurality of users, each hierarchy containing a unique ordered grouping of the planning items based on the associated user-defined attributes to permit the user to view the planning data from different perspectives, at least one of the plurality of hierarchies containing product identifiers in a top tier, product size in a middle tier, and product sales in a bottom tier;

providing a freeze profile module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the freeze profile module having access to the central database for assigning a freeze profile to the planning data preventing the planning data from being edited during a freeze period;

providing a manipulation module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the manipulation module having access to the central database for manipulating the ~~supply chain~~ planning data ~~by aggregating the planning data in accordance with the hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data~~ through data aggregation, data allocation, and component conversion, the data aggregation allowing the user to sum the planning items and planning components when viewing the planning

data, the data allocation allowing the user to allocate data when editing aggregated planning items, the component conversion allowing the user to convert data into different units of measure including weight, volume, and currency; and

providing a calendar module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the calendar module having access to the central database for organizing and ~~incrementing~~ viewing a time series of the planning data over different periods of time, each period of time being defined by a starting date and ending date according to the user's ~~a~~ ~~customized~~ calendar.

2-81. (Cancelled)

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the planning data is selectively made available through a filter that queries for the planning data by seeking only data having the user-defined attribute.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of users are selected from the group consisting of suppliers, assemblers, manufacturers, distributors, and trading partners.

84. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the user-defined ~~attribute~~ attributes is product size.

85. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute module further assigns location attributes and product attributes to the planning data.

86. (Cancelled)

87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of users are assigned roles to determine status as read-only or authorized for editing the planning data.

88-89. (Cancelled)

90. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing a hierarchy module involves ranking and placing one of the attributes into a hierarchical order.

91. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of users access the central database through a communication link to a computer network.

92. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for sharing supply chain planning data, comprising:

creating a central database for storing and sharing planning data used to coordinate, schedule and plan supply chain activities between and among a plurality of users of the supply chain, each user having an ability to read planning data from or write planning data to the central database according to an authorization level assigned by the user writing the planning data to the central database, the central database being organized into planning items and planning components, each planning item being associated with a set of time dependent planning components;

creating a derived planning component through an equation which uses other selected planning components stored in the central database, the derived planning component being made available to the users of the supply chain according to the authorization level assigned by the user creating the derived planning component;

providing an attribute module made selectively available to ~~a~~ the plurality of users in the supply chain, the attribute module having access to the central database for assigning user-defined attributes to the planning data to facilitate access to and manipulation of the planning data according to the different requirements for each user;

~~creating derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database;~~

providing a hierarchy module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the hierarchy module having access to the central database for creating a plurality of hierarchies ~~hierarchy based on the user-defined attributes~~ for organizing and viewing the planning data for the plurality of users, each hierarchy containing a unique ordered grouping of the planning items based on the associated user-defined attributes to permit the user to view the planning data from different perspectives; and

providing a manipulation module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the manipulation module having access to the central database for manipulating the ~~supply chain~~ planning data ~~by aggregating the planning data in accordance with the hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data~~ through data aggregation, data allocation, and component conversion, the data aggregation allowing the user to sum the

planning items and planning components when viewing the planning data, the data allocation allowing the user to allocate data when editing aggregated planning items, the component conversion allowing the user to convert data into different units of measure.

93. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, further including providing a calendar module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the calendar module having access to the central database for organizing and ~~incrementing~~ viewing a time series of the planning data over different periods of time, each period of time being defined by a starting date and ending date according to the user's ~~a customized~~ calendar.

94. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the planning data includes data selected from the group consisting of demand forecast, supply forecast, promotional forecast, and purchasing order information.

95. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the planning data is selectively made available through a filter that queries for the planning data by seeking only data having the attribute.

96. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the plurality of users are selected from the group consisting of suppliers, assemblers, manufacturers, distributors, and trading partners.

97. (Cancelled)

98. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, wherein one of the user-defined ~~attribute~~ attributes is product size.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the planning data includes start date, duration, and quantity for each planning component.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the plurality of users are assigned roles to determine status as read-only or authorized for editing the planning data.

101. (Cancelled)

102. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, further including providing a freeze profile module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the freeze profile module having access to the central database for assigning a freeze profile to the planning data preventing the planning data from being edited during a freeze period.

103. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the step of providing a hierarchy module involves ranking and placing one of the attributes into a hierarchical order.

104. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the plurality of users access the central database through a communication link to a computer network.

105. (Currently amended) A computer program product usable with a programmable computer processor having a computer readable program code embodied therein, comprising:

computer readable program code which creates a central database for storing and sharing planning data used to coordinate, schedule and plan supply chain activities between and among a plurality of users of the supply chain, each user having an ability to read planning data from or write planning data to the central database according to an authorization level assigned by the user writing the planning data to the central database, the central database being organized into planning items and planning components, each planning item being associated with a set of time dependent planning components;

computer readable program code which creates a derived planning component through an equation which uses other selected planning components stored in the central database, the derived planning component being made available to the users of the supply chain according to the authorization level assigned by the user creating the derived planning component;

computer readable program code which implements an attribute module made selectively available to ~~a~~ the plurality of users in the supply chain, the attribute module having access to the central database for assigning user-defined attributes to the planning data to facilitate access to and manipulation of the planning data according to the different requirements for each user;

~~computer readable program code which creates derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database;~~

computer readable program code which implements a hierarchy

module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the hierarchy module having access to the central database for creating a plurality of hierarchies ~~hierarchy based on the user-defined attributes~~ for organizing and viewing the planning data for the plurality of users, each hierarchy containing a unique ordered grouping of the planning items based on the associated user-defined attributes to permit the user to view the planning data from different perspectives; and

computer readable program code which implements a manipulation module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the manipulation module having access to the central database for manipulating the ~~supply chain~~ planning data ~~by aggregating the planning data in accordance with the hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data~~ through data aggregation, data allocation, and component conversion, the data aggregation allowing the user to sum the planning items and planning components when viewing the planning data, the data allocation allowing the user to allocate data when editing aggregated planning items, the component conversion allowing the user to convert data into different units of measure.

106. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 105, further including computer readable program code which implements a calendar module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the calendar module having access to the central database for organizing and ~~incrementing~~ viewing a time series of the planning data over different periods of time, each period of time being defined by

a starting date and ending date according to the user's ~~a customized~~ calendar.

107. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 105, wherein the planning data is selectively made available through a filter that queries for the planning data by seeking only data having the attribute.

108. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 105, wherein the attribute module assigns location attributes, product attributes, and user-defined attributes to the planning data.

109. (Currently amended) A computer system for sharing supply chain planning data, comprising:

means for creating a central database for storing and sharing planning data used to coordinate, schedule and plan supply chain activities between and among a plurality of users of the supply chain, each user having an ability to read planning data from or write planning data to the central database according to an authorization level assigned by the user writing the planning data to the central database, the central database being organized into planning items and planning components, each planning item being associated with a set of time dependent planning components;

means for creating a derived planning component through an equation which uses other selected planning components stored in the central database, the derived planning component being made available to the users of the supply chain according to the

authorization level assigned by the user creating the derived planning component;

means for providing an attribute module made selectively available to ~~a~~ the plurality of users in the supply chain, the attribute module having access to the central database for assigning user-defined attributes to the planning data to facilitate access to and manipulation of the planning data according to the different requirements for each user;

~~means for creating derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database;~~

means for providing a hierarchy module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the hierarchy module having access to the central database for creating a plurality of hierarchies ~~hierarchy based on the user-defined attributes~~ for organizing and viewing the planning data for the plurality of users, each hierarchy containing a unique ordered grouping of the planning items based on the associated user-defined attributes to permit the user to view the planning data from different perspectives; and

means for providing a manipulation module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the manipulation module having access to the central database for manipulating the ~~supply chain~~ planning data ~~by aggregating the planning data in accordance with the hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data~~ through data aggregation, data allocation, and component conversion, the data aggregation allowing the user to sum the planning items and planning components when viewing the planning data, the data allocation allowing the user to allocate data when editing aggregated planning items, the component conversion allowing the user to

convert data into different units of measure.

110. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 109, further including means for providing a calendar module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the calendar module having access to the central database for organizing and ~~incrementing~~ viewing a time series of the planning data over different periods of time, each period of time being defined by a starting date and ending date according to the user's ~~a customized~~ calendar.

111. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 109, wherein the planning data is selectively made available through a filter that queries for the planning data by seeking only data having the attribute.

112. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 109, wherein the attribute module assigns location attributes, product attributes, and user-defined attributes to the planning data.

113. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 109, further including means for providing a freeze profile module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the freeze profile module having access to the central database for assigning a freeze profile to the planning data preventing the planning data from being edited during a freeze period.

114. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 109, wherein the plurality of users access the central database through a communication link to a computer network.

115. (New) The method of claim 92, wherein the planning items including products, locations, and user-defined attributes, and the planning components including demand forecast, supply forecast, promotional forecast, and purchasing order information.

116. (New) The method of claim 92, wherein at least one of the plurality of hierarchies containing product identifiers in a top tier, product size in a middle tier, and product sales in a bottom tier.

117. (New) The method of claim 92, wherein the units of measure include weight, volume, and currency.